



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

VIETNAM



- USAID has helped expand access to lifesaving antiretroviral HIV treatment to more than 43,000 of the 75,000 individuals who receive it in Vietnam.
- USAID-supported job skills training for young Vietnamese with disabilities helped 85 percent of those trained in advanced IT skills gain employment.
- USAID's assistance helping Vietnam integrate into the global economy has been transformational: In 12 years, bilateral trade has increased from \$1.5 billion to \$30 billion.

Photo credit: USAID

Country Profile

Vietnam has experienced rapid economic growth over the past 15 years and has risen to the status of a lower middle-income country. However, progress is threatened by health and environmental problems, a weak business environment, poor governance, and limited transparency. Our assistance is accelerating Vietnam's transformation to a responsible, more inclusive partner and a market-based economy, and addressing the legacies of the past conflict between our countries.

USAID programs in Vietnam support the country's progress by focusing resources where they're needed most in health, private sector competitiveness, environment, social services for vulnerable populations and higher education.

OUR WORK

Vietnam, a nation of 92 million people, aspires to be more fully integrated into the global economy and community and an industrialized nation by 2020. The country's efforts to open its economy to global trade and investment, with USAID support, have contributed to high and sustainable rates of growth over the past two decades, boosting Vietnam into the ranks of lower middle-income countries and reducing the country's poverty level from nearly 60 percent in the 1990s to 17 percent in 2012.

Despite its rapid transformation, Vietnam confronts low competitiveness, high income disparity, environmental degradation and climate change threats, limited access to quality health and social services, outbreaks of avian influenza, inadequate higher and vocational education, and a lack of legal, regulatory and capital market systems that meet global standards. USAID is working to help Vietnam overcome these key development challenges that undermine growth and inclusiveness. USAID works with Vietnam to strengthen capacities to address the harmful effects of HIV/AIDS and avian and pandemic influenza; expand access to quality higher education; enhance governance for sustainable growth; improve opportunity for persons with disabilities; advance gender equality, female empowerment and the role of vulnerable populations; and address environment challenges, including climate change and dioxin contamination.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), USAID activities to prevent HIV and treat and care for people living with the disease reach 90,000 people in Vietnam. USAID assistance has helped Vietnam establish a national network to identify and treat people with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. USAID's Global Health Security-related assistance combating highly pathogenic avian influenza and other pandemic threats helped reduce the number of bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam from almost 2,000 in 2005 to fewer than 100 in 2013.

GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

USAID supports efforts to strengthen the rule of law and improve economic governance. Our work seeks to further Vietnam's integration into the global economy as the country continues its transition to a market-driven system. USAID has trained more than 13,000 governmental officials in trade issues since 2010. Working with the Government of Vietnam, USAID promotes transparency in law making, accountability, access to information and increased competitiveness, which will better prepare Vietnam to participate in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership regional free trade agreement. To help boost the economy by increasing the number of job-ready graduates, USAID promotes innovation in higher engineering education, a vocational training alliance with academic and industry partners, and a program to improve social work.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

USAID expands opportunities for over 12,500 persons with disabilities, regardless of cause, by providing higher quality and sustainable services, strengthening advocacy, and supporting public policies that protect their rights and provide systematic services, building on a legacy of programs initiated under the Leahy War Victims Fund in 1989. Our programs assist underrepresented populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities; women; and families affected by floods, typhoons and other natural disasters. USAID programs have reached 440,000 people with disaster preparedness services and training on early warning systems and evacuation routes in 110 communes and in over 467 businesses.

ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Vietnam is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. USAID supports government and social institutions in developing and implementing strategies in low emission development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation. At the Government of Vietnam's request, USAID is conducting a large-scale project to clean up dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment at Danang Airbase and an environmental assessment at another site, Bien Hoa, where high dioxin concentrations remain decades after war.

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USAID supports transformation of engineering education to active, project-based instruction.

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USAID helps provide livelihood skills for persons with disabilities in Central and Southern Vietnam.

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